

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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R 230939 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7047

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL MEDAN

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

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SUBJECT: NEW GOVERNORS IN WEST IRIAN AND MALUKU

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ACCORDING RECENT JAKARTA PRESS REPORTS QUOTING " OFFICIAL SOURCES", BRIG GEN ACUB ZAINAL, WHO IS NOW ARMY (KODAM) COMMANDER IN WEST IRIAN, IS SLATED TO BECOME GOVERNOR OF THAT PROVINCE REPLACING FRANS KAISIEPO. BRIG. GEN. SUMERU (FORMER HEAD OF ARMY PHYSICAL TRAINING SERVICE) WILL REPLACE COLONEL SUMITRO AS GOVERNOR OF MALUKU.

2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: THE WEST IRIAN CHANGE IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE THE VIGOROUS ACUB ZAINAL (AN EAST JAVANESE) WHO HAS IN FACT BEEN RUNNING THE PROVINCE SINCE HIS ARRIVAL THERE IN 1970, WILL NOW BE REPLACING A NATIVE IRIANESE IN THE FORMAL TOP POSITION, THEREBY PLUCKING AWAY WHAT WOULD SEEM TO HAVE BEEN A USEFUL FIG- LEAF ON JAVANESE MILITARY RULE.

THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS INDICATING RECENT INDONESIAN SUSPICION THAT KAISIEPO, AN ELDERLY EX- SCHOOL TEACHER, IS IN SYMPATHY WITH SEPARATIST REBELS (HIS BROTHER MARKUS HAS LONG BEEN A LEADING EXILE MEMBER OF THE FREE

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PAPUA MOVEMENT, AS IS WELL KNOWN HERE) AND THIS COULD EXPLAIN HIS REMOVAL. IT SEEMS SOMEWHAT SURPRISING THAT ZAINAL, GENERALLY REGARDED AS A COMING YOUNG OFFICER, SHOULD BE DIVERTING FROM THE MAINSTREAM OF MILITARY ADVANCEMENT INTO A CIVILIAN JOB. THIS IS USUALLY A ONE- WAY STREET. HOWEVER ZAINAL' S REPLACEMENT AS KODAM COMMANDER WILL (ACCORDING TO THE SAME REPORTS) BE HIS PRESENT CHIEF OF STAFF, COL. SOETRISNO, INDICATING THAT ZAINAL WILL PROBABLY REMAIN CLEARLY IN CHARGE. HE HAS BEEN AN ENERGETIC AND CAPABLE PERFORMER UP TO NOW AND SHOULD BE A GOOD GOVERNOR.

3. WITH REGARD TO MALUKU, OUTGOING GOVERNOR SUMITRO HAS BEEN A CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE SINCE 1971. HE HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY ATTACKED BY BOTH MOSLEM AND INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS FOR CORRUPTION, ALLEGED COMMUNIST CONNECTIONS, AND ALL- AROUND INEFFECTIVENESS. IT HAS NEVER BEEN CLEAR WHETHER ALL OR ANY OF THESE CHARGES WERE DESERVED BUT NO ONE HAS LEAPT TO SUMITRO' S DEFENSE IN PUBLIC AND HIS REPLACEMENT HAS LONG BEEN EXPECTED. NOTHING IS KNOWN ABOUT HIS REPLACEMENT.
GALBRAITH

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